

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. An interactive vehicle auction and sale system comprising:

5 a plurality of computers;

a computer network enabling communication between said plurality of computers;

a plurality of user interface terminals in connection with said computer network, said

10 terminals utilized to display an amount of auction and sales information and to input
a series of auction bids in an auction process;

15 a plurality of databases and corresponding database servers for storage of an amount
of vehicle statistics;

an input computer in communication with said network to receive and to route said
20 amount of auction and sales information to a plurality of database servers;

a web server in communication with said plurality of user interface terminals and said
25 plurality of database servers, through said network, said web server utilized to
control said auction process, coordinate said series of auction bids and maintain
communications between said plurality of user interface terminals and a plurality of
30 servers;

an applications server in communication with said network and said user interface
35 terminals; said applications server containing a system software program for
operating said interactive vehicle auction and sale system;

a vehicle image and video server in communication with said network and said user
40 interface terminals, containing a plurality of electronic vehicle images and a
plurality of vehicle video tapes to be accessed by said user terminals;

45 a template server in communication with said network and said user interface

5 terminals, containing a plurality of templates to be accessed by said user interface terminals in conjunction with said system software program, an amount of data from said template server utilized as a plurality of interactive computer screens;

10 a plurality of mail servers in communication with said network, said plurality of mail servers utilized to receive an amount of auction and sales information from said users; said mail servers also utilized to respond to said to said users;

15 a plurality of protection mechanisms contained within said network to protect said database servers from unwanted access;

20 a bank system connection in communication with said network to enable verification of a credit line of a vehicle purchaser.

2. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 1 wherein, an auction
25 timer controls an amount of time allotted for an interactive vehicle auction and a readout
of said timer is displayed on said user interface terminals.

30 3. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 2 wherein, said auction timer automatically resets upon entry of a bid value higher than a highest bid value.

35 4. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 3 wherein, upon
expiration of said auction timer, said highest bid value entered in said interactive vehicle
auction wins said auction process.

5. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 4 wherein, upon
45 expiration of said auction timer, an electronic mail transmission is sent to said system
user corresponding to said highest bid value.

6. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 5 wherein, said auction
5 timer commences a count down process from a value of four minutes.
7. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 6 wherein, said auction
10 timer commences said count down process from a value of two minutes.
8. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 7 wherein, said auction
15 timer commences said count down process from a value of one minute.
9. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 1 wherein, a system user
20 may manually enter a vehicle into said vehicle auction and sale system.
10. An interactive vehicle auction and sale system comprising:
 - 25 a plurality of computers;
 - a computer network enabling communication between said plurality of computers;
 - a plurality of user interface terminals in connection with said computer network, said
30 terminals utilized to display an amount of auction and sales information and to input
 - a series of auction bids in an auction process;
 - 35 a plurality of databases and corresponding database servers for storage of an
 - amount of vehicle statistics;
 - an input computer in communication with said network to receive and to route said
40 amount of auction and sales information to a plurality of database servers;
 - a web server in communication with said plurality of user interface terminals and said
 - 45 plurality of database servers, through said network, said web server utilized to

control said auction process, coordinate said series of auction bids and maintain communications between said plurality of user interface terminals and a plurality of servers;

5 an applications server in communications with said network and said user interface terminals; said applications server containing a system software program for 10 operating said interactive vehicle auction and sale system;

15 a vehicle image and video server in communications with said network and said user interface terminals, containing a plurality of electronic vehicle images and a plurality of vehicle video tapes to be accessed by said user terminals;

20 a template server in communications with said network and said user interface 20 terminals, containing a plurality of templates to be accessed by said user interface terminals in conjunction with said system software program, an amount of data 25 from said template server utilized as a plurality of interactive computer screens;

30 a plurality of mail servers in communication with said network, said plurality of mail servers utilized to receive an amount of auction and sales information from said 30 users; said mail servers also utilized to respond to said to said users;

35 a plurality of protection mechanisms contained within said network to protect said database servers from unwanted access;

40 a bank system connection in communication with said network to enable verification 40 of a credit line of a vehicle purchaser.

45 a plurality of electronic images of said vehicles for auction or purchase are accessible 45 by said user interface terminals.

11. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 10 wherein, said plurality

of electronic images of said vehicles exhibit an interior view of said vehicles for auction or purchase.

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12. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 11 wherein, said plurality of electronic images of said vehicles for auction or purchase include an electronic image of a vehicle engine contained inside said vehicles.

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13. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 12 wherein, said plurality of electronic images of said vehicles for auction or purchase include an electronic image exhibiting a vehicle exterior from a panoramic view.

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14. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 10 wherein, said plurality of electronic images of said vehicles for auction or purchase include a video tape image of an engine of said vehicles for auction or purchase.

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15. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 14 wherein, said video taped image of an engine of said vehicles for auction or purchase displays an audio and a video image of said engine during an engine start up process.

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35 16. An interactive vehicle auction and sale system comprising:

a plurality of computers;

a computer network enabling communication between said plurality of computers;

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a plurality of user interface terminals in connection with said computer network, said terminals utilized to display an amount of auction and sales information and to input a series of auction bids in an auction process;

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a plurality of databases and corresponding database servers for storage of an amount
of vehicle statistics;

5 an input computer in communication with said network to receive and to route said
amount of auction and sales information to a plurality of database servers;

10 a web server in communication with said plurality of user interface terminals and said
plurality of database servers, through said network, said web server utilized to
control said auction process, coordinate said series of auction bids and maintain
15 communications between said plurality of user interface terminals and a plurality of
servers;

20 an applications server in communications with said network and said user interface
terminals; said applications server containing a system software program for
operating said interactive vehicle auction and sale system;

25 a vehicle image and video server in communications with said network and said user
interface terminals, containing a plurality of electronic vehicle images and a
plurality of vehicle video tapes to be accessed by said user terminals;

30 a template server in communications with said network and said user interface
terminals, containing a plurality of templates to be accessed by said user interface
terminals in conjunction with said system software program, an amount of data
35 from said template server utilized as a plurality of interactive computer screens;

40 a plurality of mail servers in communication with said network, said plurality of mail
servers utilized to receive an amount of auction and sales information from said
users; said mail servers also utilized to respond to said to said users;

45 a plurality of protection mechanisms contained within said network to protect said

database servers from unwanted access;

5 a bank system connection in communication with said network to enable verification of a credit line of a vehicle purchaser.

10 a complete lot of said vehicles for auction or purchase may be bid upon simultaneously.

15 17. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 16 wherein, said complete lot of said vehicles for auction or purchase may be bid upon by a single system user simultaneously.

20 18. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 17 wherein, said complete lot of said vehicles for auction or purchase may include up to three of said vehicles for auction or purchase.

25 19. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 18 wherein, said vehicles for auction or purchase may be auctioned with a minimum time increment between said interactive vehicle auctions of six minutes.

30 20. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 19 wherein, said system user may participate in said interactive vehicle auction without actually being present at said user interface terminals while said auction is in process.

35 40 21. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 20 wherein, said system user may enter a bid value on said vehicles for auction or purchase before said vehicle auction has commenced.

22. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 21 wherein, said system
user may enter a maximum bid value on said vehicles for auction or purchase before said
5 vehicle auction has commenced.

10 23. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 22 wherein, said system
user may enter a minimum bid value on said vehicles for auction or purchase before said
vehicle auction has commenced.

15 24. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 23 wherein, said system
user may enter an incremental value for a subsequent bid existing between said minimum
20 bid and said maximum bid, on said vehicles for auction or purchase before said vehicle
auction has commenced.

25 25. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 24 wherein, said system
user may communicate with a plurality of other system users through said user interface
30 terminals.

35 26. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 25 wherein, said system
user may access a listing of vehicles to be auctioned on a specific day.

40 27. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 26 wherein, said system
user may access said electronic images of said listing of vehicles to be auctioned on a
45 specific day.

28. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 27 wherein, a distance
between said vehicle for auction and a residence of said user can be accessed through

said user interface terminals.

29. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 28 wherein, said user

5 may observe an auction without actively participating in said auction.

30. The interactive vehicle auction and sale system of claim 16 wherein, a vehicle

10 spare part can be located by using said plurality of databases and corresponding database

servers for storage of an amount of vehicle statistics.

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